

REMEDICATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR
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DNR CLOSES 68% OF PECFA CASES ABOVE PAL AND ES

The RR program's site tracking system shows increasing implementation of rule changes made in late 1996. The changes allowed DNR to close sites with groundwater contamination above the enforcement standard (ES), as long as the data show decreasing contaminant levels due to natural attenuation. Few sites could be closed quickly, because the necessary data had not been collected. The rate of case closures above both the preventive action limit (PAL) and the enforcement standard (ES) in 1997, the first full year in which closure above the ES was possible, was 16% at PECFA sites. In 1998 the rate climbed to 41%, and in the first four months of 1999 the rate was 68%. In the first four months of 1999, 30% of DNR's final case closure approvals at PECFA sites were made at sites with groundwater contamination above the ES. This does not include sites where DNR has approved closure, but is waiting for the responsible person to record a groundwater use restriction. The new Comm 46 rule is expected to increase the rate at which low permeability (clay) sites are closed with contamination above the ES. The new numeric values in Comm 46 will provide a clear target at which consultants should propose site closure. The slow rate of groundwater movement at these sites, plus the low probability of water supply wells in these tight soils, reduces the risk to human health and the environment of contamination in these areas. Comm 46 allows closure of these sites without the site-specific demonstration of natural attenuation required by NR 726.

SITE INVESTIGATION REPORT PROBLEMS LEAD TO CLOSURE DENIALS

In the first quarter of 1999, regional RR program staff approved closure of 396 sites (both PECFA and non-PECFA). Of these, 193 were conditional closures, meaning the responsible person needs to take actions such as abandonment of monitoring wells or recording a groundwater use restriction. Non-approvals in the same period totaled 118 sites, or 20%. The reasons for 104 of the non-approvals are available. They are:

- 60 site investigation reports did not define the degree and extent of contamination;
 - 31 sites needed additional rounds of sampling before closure;
 - 19 sites lacked demonstration that the behavior of the groundwater plume was stable or receding;
 - 15 sites had missing information;
 - 10 sites needed an institutional control prior to closure approval;
- and
- 10 sites needed more information for approval of site-specific soil standards.

Other reasons that impacted fewer closure decisions included: incomplete investigation of utility corridors, invalid data, poor documentation, failure to document abandonment of monitoring wells and the presence of free product. Some closure requests were not approved for several of the above reasons.

DNR WELL FORMS AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

DNR's Drinking and Groundwater Program has a computerized data entry and printing program on the internet for monitoring well construction,

development, soil boring log and well abandonment forms. This is intended to allow convenient completion of the forms, required by NR 141.23(2), and to establish a database of well construction logs. The system is based on the assignment of Wisconsin unique well identification numbers. The software, blank forms and instructions are available on the DNR web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/Software.htm>. RR project managers still need to have printed forms included with site specific submittals, but those forms can be printed from the electronic form on the web site. For more information, or to obtain Wisconsin unique well numbers, contact David Johnson at 608-261-6421.

RR STAFF DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

The list of regional and central office staff and their telephone numbers is located on the RR web site for easy reference. It's located at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/technical/lists/rrphone.pdf>. A county by county listing of regional staff contacts is also available at http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/technical/lists/county_contacts.pdf.

To unsubscribe to this list please send an e-mail to majordomo@badger.state.wi.us In the body of the message type "unsubscribe rr name". "Name" is the e-mail address you used to subscribe to the list. Please be sure your signature block is not turned on.

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